RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 26th August, 1996/4th Bhadra, 1918 (Saka)

The House met at two minutes past eleven of the clock,

Mr. Chairman *in the Chair.*

REFERENCE TO THE DEATH OF PILGRIMS OF AMARNATH YATRA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to announce the tragic death of many pilgrims at Amarnath. It is indeed a great tragedy for us. I understand that relief work has been in progress in this regard. I am sure, the whole House would join me in offering condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar): Sir, it is a matter of serious concern. We want to discuss this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*... I demand that the Question Hour should be suspended- ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, Question Hour should be suspended and we should have a discussion on this. The worst has happened. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is not the first time that such a tragedy has happened. ...*(Interruptions)*... Last time it was in Haridwar. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now it is in Amarnath. ...*(Interruptions)*... We want to discuss this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*... We want to discuss why such a tragedy has happened. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SYED SIBTEY RAZI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, there is a total failure on the part of the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, the Home Minister is going only today! ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit dowm ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): यह सरकार का टोटल फेल्योर है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ..*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Will you please sit down? ...*(Interruptions)*... Will you please sit down? Will you have the decorum to sit down? I understand that the Home Minister has gone to Amarnath. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen to me. ..*(Interruptions)*... Will you please listen to me? This is a great tragedy. In the face of a tragedy like this if you are behaving in this manner, what sort of sorrow are you"feeling! Are you touched by the tragedy?

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA (Punjab): We are touched by the tragedy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then you please keep quiet. The Home Minister, on return, will make a statement on the subject. The House will certainly have an opportunity to discuss this matter and in homage to the memory of those who have lost their lives in this tragedy I adjourn the House till 12 o'clock.

The House then adjourned at six minutes past eleven of the clock till twelve of the clock.

The House Reassembled at two minutes past tweleve of the clock, (The Vice-Chairman (Shri V. Narayanasamy) in the Chair).

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Number of foreign investment proposals approved

*341. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign investment proposals cleared by Government during the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign investment envisaged and the content of export earnings involved in these proposals; and

(c) the total amount of foreign investment that have actually come into the country, so far, from the date of implementation of liberalisation policy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) A total of 3821 foreign investment proposals envisaging foreign direct investment of Rs. 66,837.67 crores were cleared by the Government during the last three years i.e. from January, 1993 to June, 1996. The data on the content of export earnings involved in these proposals is not maintained separately.

(c) The actual flow of foreign direct investment during 1991 to 1996 (upto June) has been of the order of Rs. 16,076.65 crores.

Diversion of export cargo from Vis-akhapatnam to Madras Port

*342. DR. V. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of cargo from Visakhapatnam is being diverted to Madras Port due to the non-availability of Pass Book Scheme at Visakhapatnam under Duty Exemption Scheme of Export; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken to avert the diversion of cargo from Visakhapatnam to Madras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The Pass Book Scheme has been initiated only with effect from 1st April, 1995 with limited initial coverage to assess its working. It is presently being operated through the designated authorities in the Customs Houses at Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, where necessary facilities are available for operating the Scheme. Therefore, at present, exports under this Scheme can take place only from these ports. The Question of extending the Pass Book Scheme to Visakhapatnam can be decided after assessing the working of the scheme and creation of necessary infrastructure at Visakhapatnam Customs House for operation of the scheme.

Export of Sugar to Pakistan

*343. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar to be ex ported to Pakistan during the current year;

(b) the measures taken to ensure delivery of quality sugar on scheduled dates;

(c) whether Union Food Ministry has been asked to release extra one million tonnes of sugar for export; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The Indian Sugar and General Industry Export Corporation Limited (IS-GIEIC) which is the designated agency for export of sugar from India, has received orders from the Trading Corporation of Pakistan and other, private parties for supply of 2.08 lakh Metric Tonnes of sugar during the current year. In order to ensure the delivery of quality sugar to Pakistan, ISGIEIC is procuring sugar only from those factories whose samples are approved by the surveyors nominated by the buyers. The export consignments are further subject to analysis by these surveyors at the time of loading.

(c) Ministry of Food has been authorised to permit the export of 10 lakh MTs of sugar during the sugar year 1996-97 (1 Oct. 1996—30 Sept. 1997).

(d) Does not arise.

Sugar Mills running below Capacity

*344. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state: